External DOELAP Participant Newsletter

January 22, 2004

Dear Participants,

Just a few words of explanation concerning DOELAP in the upcoming test sessions…

We have retired our 14 Ci Cs-137 irradiator. We are replacing it with a dual source irradiator designed by Hopewell, Inc., containing 20 Ci Cs-137 and 7 Ci Co-60 in preparation for moving to the new whole body dosimetry standard, ANSI/HPS N13.11. The new irradiator will be in use during test session 2004-A (37), beginning shortly. We anticipate receiving the irradiator at the beginning of February and expect to have it fully characterized within the month, at least for the cesium source.

Our x-ray irradiator's positive high voltage generator failed soon after test session 2003-B. Fortunately, the failure occurred after all irradiations had been made for the test session. It was sent over the December holidays to Atlanta for repair. It will hopefully be back in service by the beginning of February. Of course, we will be verifying that the x-ray fields have not varied appreciably as a result of the equipment repair.

The session schedules will be changing beginning in the upcoming test session, resulting in a more protracted timetable. The way the schedule will go is as follows:

Event	Test Session A	Test Session B
Irradiations	January - March	August – October
Test Report	Mid-May	Mid-December
Assessments	Late May - July	January – February
Oversight Board	Early October	Early May

These dates may be subject to change, depending on ease or difficulty of implementation. Also, the current test session (2004-A) will have delayed dates due to the new source and x-ray repair.

One item to keep in mind is that there is a provision in the DOELAP standard that automatically extends the date of your accreditation if "the DOE Site has exceeded the effective end date through no fault of its own" [DOE-STD-1111-98 §6.6]. So, if you proceed through the normal process, don't worry about the accreditation date. I will make sure your Site Office is aware that you are being extended.

This change will not result in more work from you - just a protracted schedule. However, the ability for assessors to have recent testing results will enable them to better identify areas to look at during their onsite assessments.

To date, DOELAP has developed the following beam codes for use in implementing ANSI N13.11:

M30 M50 M60 M100 M150 M200 M250
S60
NS80 NS150
WS150
H50 H60 H150 H100 H200 H250 H300

We are also experimenting with the development of a NS-series beam code as a possible replacement for the K-17 fluorescence beam. Of course, as previously, all beam codes will be pilot tested prior to use. If you have any particular beam codes that you are interested in due to your field conditions, please let me know.

Our mailing address changed a few months back. Our shipping address has not changed. Here they both are for your reference:

Mailing Address:
DOE, Idaho Operations Office
1955 N. Fremont, MS-4149
Idaho Falls, ID 83401-4149

Shipping Address
(including overnight letters):
DOE, Idaho Operations Office
DOELAP Program, INEEL/CFA-690
Lincoln Blvd. and Albany Ave.
Scoville, ID 83415-4149

Please feel free to let me or Rich know of any concerns regarding DOELAP. We invite any suggestions for improvement. You are always welcome to plan a visit with us or to call us to visit should you be in the area.

Scott Schwahn, PEPA